



IN REPLY REFER TO:

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service  
Congaree National Park  
100 National Park Road  
Hopkins, South Carolina 29061



N1619

November 30, 2007

Ms. Amy M. Bennett, Water Quality Standards Coordinator  
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
Bureau of Water  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, South Carolina, 29201

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BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY  
WATER QUALITY DIVISION

Re: Triennial Review of the Water Classifications and Standards (R. 61-68)

Congaree National Park appreciates the opportunity to comment on proposed amendments of water classifications and standards as outlined in R.61-68 for the State of South Carolina.

The unique floodplain forests and ecological conditions of Congaree National Park, South Carolina are dependent upon the maintenance of water quality and natural seasonal flow regimes in the streams and floodwaters that enter the park. Congaree National Park is located on the Congaree River at the lower end of a 5.2 million acre watershed which encompasses a variety of land uses, some with the potential to degrade water quality. We support a review of water classifications and standards in order to adequately protect and improve existing water quality conditions.

Outstanding National Resource Waters

On May 31, 2006, Governor Mark Sanford signed the South Carolina General Assembly's Joint Resolution to approve the reclassification of waters within Congaree National Park to "Outstanding Resource Waters," as well as a portion of Cedar Creek to "Outstanding National Resource Waters." Cedar Creek is one of the main blackwater tributary streams that traverse the park's forested floodplain, supporting diverse aquatic communities and providing recreational opportunities for park visitors. The designation of Cedar Creek as "Outstanding National Resource Waters" is the first such designation of its kind in the state of South Carolina. For continued protection of these tributary streams, we support the current narrative criteria for ONRW and ORW consistent with Antidegradation Rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. Please feel free to contact me via phone at (803) 776-4396 x24 if you should have further questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Swartout  
Superintendent

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